GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4578
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
COLLECTION OF DUES FROM BSNL
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecom has entrusted the work of collection of telephone dues from the BSNL telephone subscribers to the Police personnel on commission basis in certain Telecom Districts in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether the method is successful and whether Government propose to introduce such system in other Telecom, Districts;

(c) whether Government have examined the methods adopted by the Police to recover the dues and whether force, threat, coersion or other methods were employed by the Police while recovering dues; and

(d) the details thereof and whether Government have received any complaints in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a) Department of Telecom is no longer collecting telephone dues after the formation of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. The Company has, however, initiated a procedure to avail of the services of State Government Departments including the Police and Revenue authorities for recovery of outstanding dues. For this work 1.5% commission of the recovered amount is payable to the concerned Department.

(b) to (d) Despite best efforts, by erstwhile DOT (now BSNL), a huge amount remains outstanding against habitual defaulters. As a last resort this decision was therefore taken with a view to recover the dues from such defaulters in public interest. As per the information available at BSNL(Hqrs.), the system has not taken off in most Telecom Circles as yet. At no point of time BSNL has suggested the use of coercive methods for recovery of outstanding dues and also no complaints have been received about any use of force by Police in this regard.